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birds usually start a second brood about this time, the young of which appear late in July.

***Sialia currucoides*.** Mountain Bluebird. Common summer resident of the foothills, but not common far into the mountains. More rare in the prairies, but fairly common locally about Choteau, where it nests in and about buildings. Migration date: March 28, 1912. Nesting begins about May 10. Two broods are usually reared.

West Haven, Connecticut, December 21, 1913.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

California Murre at Newport Beach, Orange County, California.—On January 28 of the present year, while looking for sea-birds which might have been washed up by the storm which swept the coast for ten days or more, I found a very "sick" Murre (*Uria troille californica*) sitting near the water's edge. The bird was captured after a short chase and its lower parts were found to be soaked with oil. This would argue that it had been blown south from the San Francisco Bay region, where so many birds fall victims to the oil thrown from the tank steamers, and was not a regular visitant this far south.

The main sufferers from the blow were the Cassin Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), nine being found in three miles of beach. Mr. A. B. Howell saw about forty in five miles of beach at Bay City a day or so previously. It is probably as much because of the inability to feed on very rough water as the battering they receive that so much havoc is caused among the Auklets; for all were extremely emaciated and the stomachs empty.—ADRIAAN VAN ROSSEM, *Pomona, California*.

Return of a Western Flycatcher to a Particular Locality.—During the spring and summer of 1913 a Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis difficilis*), inhabiting the laurels and live oaks along Strawberry Creek near the Faculty Club, attracted my attention by its note. This differed from that of all other birds of this species which I have observed, in that the usual single note of rising inflection was preceded and succeeded by single short monotonous notes. This year (1914) the same note has been heard almost daily in the same locality. I believe, therefore, that the identical bird has returned to the same haunts that it occupied during the previous year. If this be true we have here another exhibition of the homing instinct in birds.—TRACY I. STORER, *Department of Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, California*.

Red-winged Blackbird on the Sierras in Winter.—While sleighing to Donner Lake from Truckee on February 28, last, I was much struck by the absence of bird-life, only a couple of small birds flitting through some pines, having been seen. Unfortunately, it was impossible to form even an idea of the identity of these.

Upon approaching the lake, a solitary male Red-wing flew up from the snow into a nearby pine, which act was repeated as we set forth upon the return journey. The bird each time was within a few feet of the sleigh, and it was readily seen that its plumage was quite ragged; also that the red shoulder patches were quite heavily barred with buff.

Even with the probability that the bird had been forced to remain in such severe winter quarters through injury, its presence in such a locality upon the date mentioned seems worthy of record.—JOHN W. MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, California*.

Desert Sparrow near Claremont, California.—On March 14, 1914, while collecting in the brush north of here, I shot an adult male *Amphispiza bilineata deserticola*. As Mr. Willett, in his "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California", mentions this sparrow as but an occasional visitant to this region, I thought the above instance worthy of note.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California*.

Least and Western Sandpipers Summering in San Diego County, California.—On July 12, 1908, while collecting at a small alkaline lake near San Luis Rey, I took one *Pisobia minutilla* and two *Ereunetes mauri* from a small flock of about a dozen individuals. They are apparently in complete breeding dress with the exception of the wings which are similar to those of winter specimens.—ADRIAAN VAN ROSSEM, *Pomona, California*.

Ferruginous Rough-leg at Los Angeles.—On investigating the reason for several gunshots heard within one hundred and fifty yards of the La Brea fossil pits, on December 8, last, I secured a beautiful specimen of the Ferruginous Rough-leg (*Archibuteo ferrugineus*) that had just been killed by a rancher whose poultry it was threatening. It proved to be a female of the year and in perfect plumage. Its craw was entirely empty, which probably explains the boldness of the bird in invading a locality bristling with oil derricks and with the noise of pumping engines all about. The rancher told me later that there was a pair of the hawks, but the other vanished when this one was killed.—L. E. WYMAN, *Museum of History, Science, and Art, Los Angeles, California*.

Variation in Coloration of Male House Finches.—In a series of skins of *Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* that I collected near Claremont during March, 1914, I find the coloration of the males to vary greatly. One specimen has a distinct white band back of the head, and is dirty white on the throat, with several white, red, and brown feathers on his head. The rump of this bird is an especially brilliant red. The breast is reddish. In the rest of the series the red coloration of the head, neck, breast and rump runs through several shades of red, pink, and salmon to a dirty pale lemon yellow.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California*.

Notes from the San Bernardino Mountains.—The following notes may be of interest, as they contain several records of species new to the San Bernardino mountain region of southern California. These notes were made in the summer of 1910.

Dafila acuta. Pintail. Common at Bear Lake, August 25 and 26.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveller. Common at Bear Lake, August 25 and 26.

Helodromas solitarius cinnamomeus. Western Solitary Sandpiper. Two birds of the year in fresh fall plumage were taken at Bear Lake, August 26. They were accompanied by a third individual and were feeding on a mud flat at the edge of the tules. Two more were seen but not secured.

Lophortyx californica vallicola. Valley Quail. This quail was met with commonly in the brushy hills between Oak Glen and Beaumont. About 3000 feet altitude seemed to be the limit of its range. Few quail were met with between 3000 and 5000 feet. At the latter altitude Plumed Quail (*Oreortyx picta plumifera*) were rather abundant.

Aluco pratincola. Barn Owl. While at Oak Glen a rancher told me of a curious owl which had nested for two years in an oak near his barn. Investigation showed it to have been of this species. Though the young had flown at this late date (July 1), the numerous feathers in the cavity and on the ground nearby left no doubt as to the identity of the species. This altitude (5280 feet to be exact) is by far the highest at which I have encountered this bird.

Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis. Western Crow. Several were seen chasing a Western Red-tail in a small sycamore canyon about half way between Oak Glen and Beaumont.

Passerella iliaca megarhyncha. Thick-billed Sparrow. One specimen taken at Seven Oaks, September 25.

Passerella iliaca schistacea. Slate-colored Sparrow. One specimen taken at Seven Oaks, September 25.

Progne subis hesperia. Western Martin. A colony of about twenty pairs was nesting in a large dead pine near Oak Glen. Several smaller colonies were found in the surrounding country.

Dendroica occidentalis. Hermit Warbler. An immature bird taken August 1, two immatures August 2, adult male August 11, immature August 13 and an adult male August 31. The young birds were in new fall plumage and all were without doubt migrants.

Columba fasciata fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon. At the time of my arrival at Oak Glen, June 25, Band-tailed Pigeons were not common, though they had evidently been

abundant a short time before. One rancher told me of having killed forty in a morning's hunt, and the amount of feathers found under several of the larger oaks was good evidence that the story was not exaggerated. He also told me of having found several birds in a dying condition from having their crops perforated by acorns on which they had been feeding. The only bird shot by me, however, had recently been feeding exclusively on tame red cherries. Pigeons were seen nowhere else in the mountains.

Pooecetes gramineus confinis. Western Vesper Sparrow. A Vesper Sparrow presumably of this subspecies was seen in a little mountain meadow near the government nursery near Seven Oaks, September 20.

Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli. Gambel Sparrow. Rather common at Seven Oaks. The date of arrival is not known to me and they were still numerous when I left, the 1st of October.

Zonotrichia coronata. Golden-crowned Sparrow. Less abundant than the last named species but still tolerably common.

Porzana carolina. Sora. One specimen taken at Bear Lake, on August 26.

Podilymbus podiceps. Pied-billed Grebe. At least two seen at Bear Lake on August 26. They were quite alone, while the Eared Grebes (*Colymbus nigricollis californicus*) were still in family parties, the young of which varied in size from apparently recently hatched to nearly full grown.

Otus asio bendirei. California Screech Owl. One of a pair taken near Seven Oaks on the evening of August 17, while I was passing through on the way to the higher mountains.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea. Burrowing Owl. Seen only in the cut-over grain fields between Oak Glen and Beaumont.

Buteo lineatus elegans. Red-bellied Hawk. At sunrise on the morning of September 19, one of these hawks flew screaming past my tent following the course of an alder-grown creek that runs by the government nursery near Seven Oaks. On being pursued it mounted high in the air, flying in swift circles and continually giving it's unmistakable call.

Accipiter velox. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Noted only once and then at Bluff Lake, August 22, when a juvenal attempted to snatch a bird from the skinning table not twenty feet from where I stood.—ADRIAAN VAN ROSSEM, *Pomona, California*.

Early Nesting of the California Shrike.—A nest of the California Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli*) with six eggs, incubation begun, was observed two miles northwest of Colton, San Bernardino County, California, March 15, 1914. This is the earliest record that I know of.—W. C. HANNA, *Colton, California*.

Additional Notes to Willett's "Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California".—*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus*. Western Mockingbird. An early set of four eggs, incubation started, taken at Claremont, March 26, 1914.

Heleodytes brunneicapillus couesi. Cactus Wren. Five sets, incubation advanced to fresh, noted near Claremont, on March 24, 1914. These early sets show that the birds are probably nesting earlier this year because of the warm weather during March. In past years a nest in this locality before April was unusual.

Phainopepla nitens. Phainopepla. On March 18, 1914, I took a female and noted a male at Claremont.

Tyrannus verticalis. Arkansas Kingbird. One noted near Claremont on March 16, 1914, and two noted three miles south of Chino on March 22, 1914.

Calypte costae. Costa Hummingbird. On March 21, 1914, I took a male at Claremont.

Buteo lineatus elegans. Red-bellied Hawk. I took a set of three fresh eggs near Corona on March 22, 1914. Another pair was noted nesting in the same locality on the 2nd of April, 1914. On April 4, 1914, I found a nest of this bird near Fillmore. There were no eggs at this time, but the birds were both near the nest.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California*.